

**DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL**

**CONTACT: OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS**  
**(916) 657-7202**  
**(916) 657-8639 - FAX**



**October 25, 1999 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**99-26**

**BEWARE OF FRAUDULENT SOLICITORS ASKING FOR MONEY FOR THE CHP**

Many Businesses in California have answered their telephones recently, and have been asked to buy advertisements. That in itself is not unusual. What is different and disturbing to California Highway Patrol (CHP) Commissioner Dwight Helmick is the solicitors are promising to give the money they raise to the CHP to fund public education programs or to help the families of fallen officers.

“These solicitors are misrepresenting what they do,” the commissioner said. “We do not ask businesses to place ads in publications, and we *do not* receive money from any ads that are placed. When it comes right down to it, these people are using the good name of the CHP to raise money for their own purposes.

“The Highway Patrol does not request funds of any kind either in person or over the telephone. If anyone receives a telephone call, mailing, magazine advertisement or other solicitation requesting money, goods, and/or services on behalf of the CHP, don’t do it,” Helmick added. “Instead, obtain the name and telephone number of the individual who is calling, then call your local CHP office to report the incident.”

#####